

MARVEL
REMEMBERS

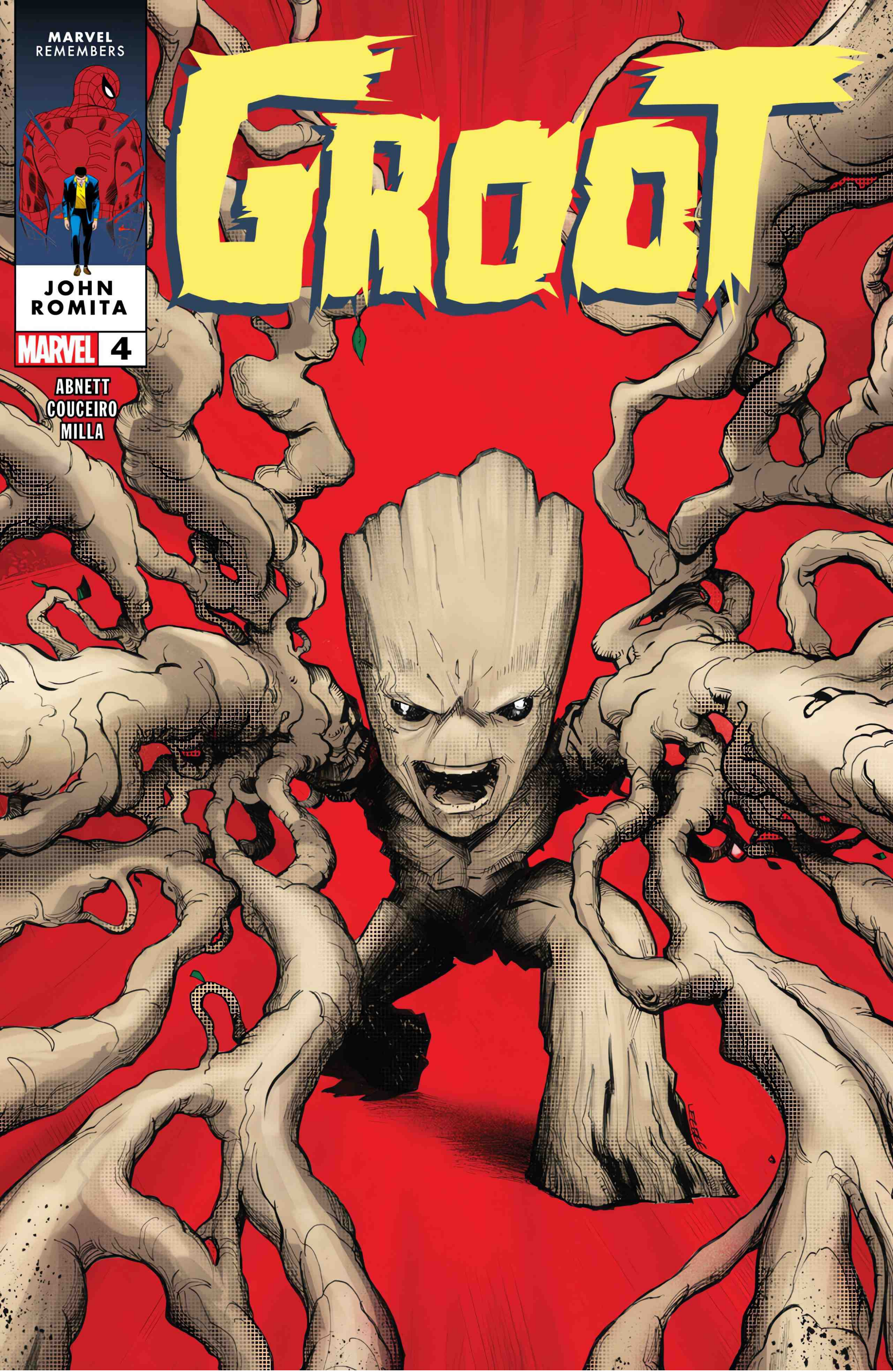


JOHN
ROMITA

MARVEL 4

ABNETT
COUCEIRO
MILLA

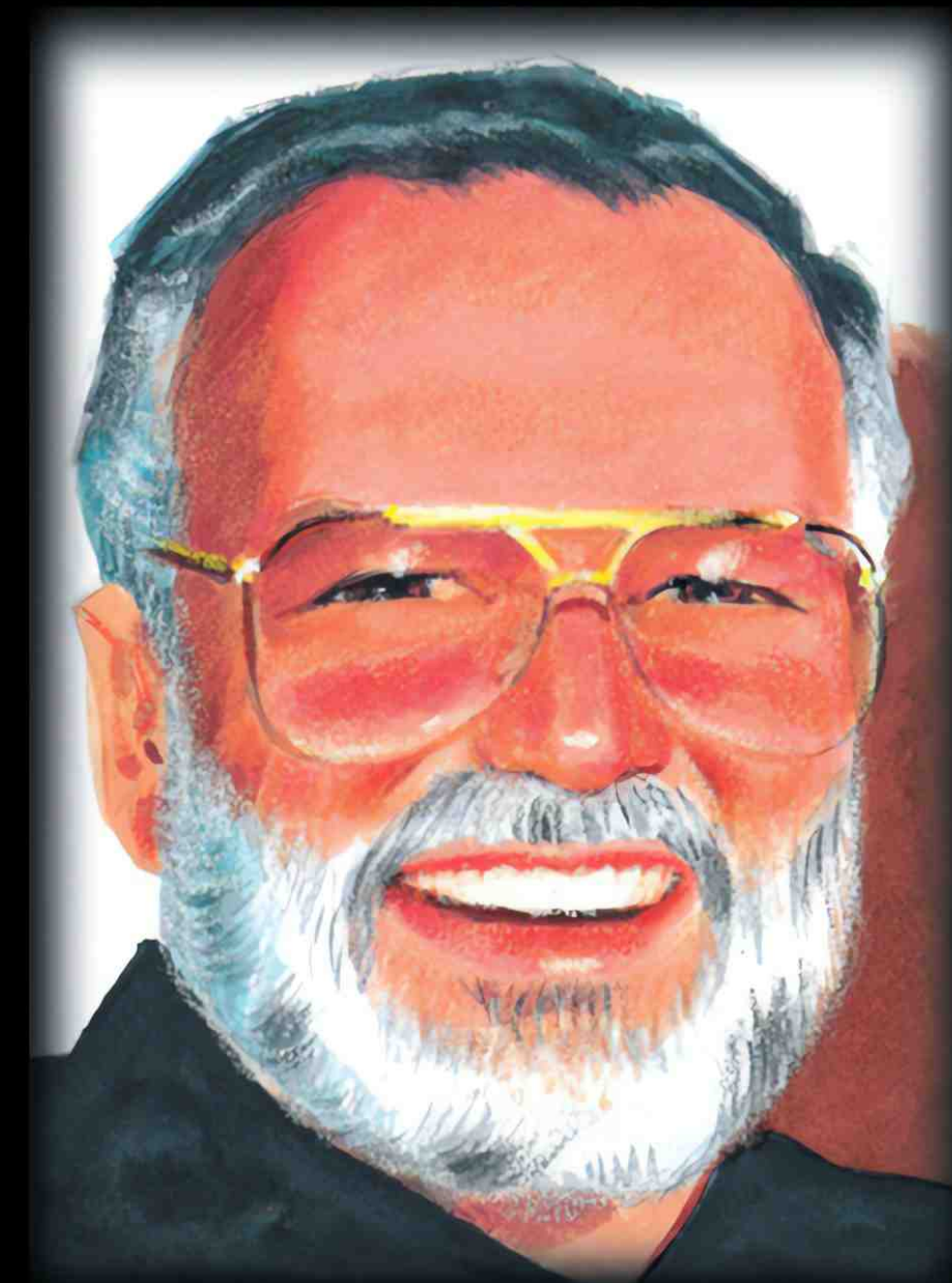
GROOT





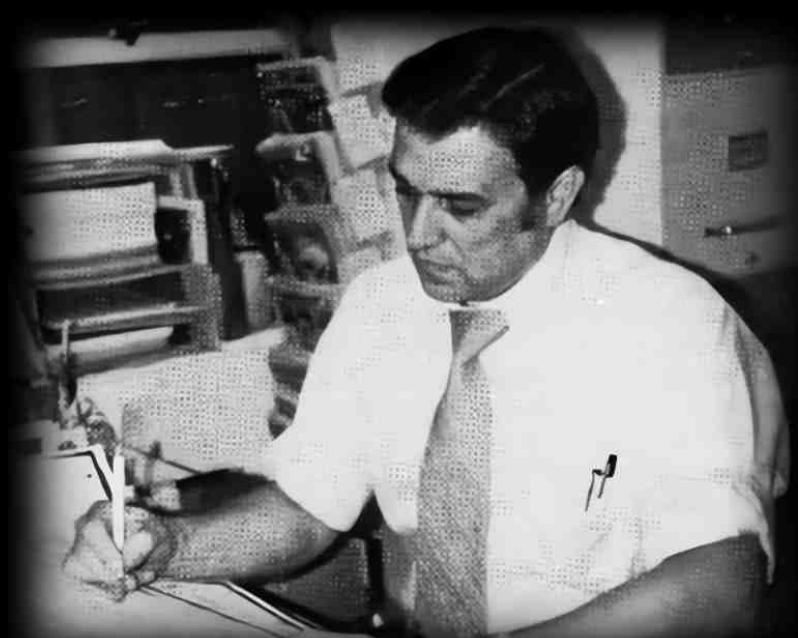
John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

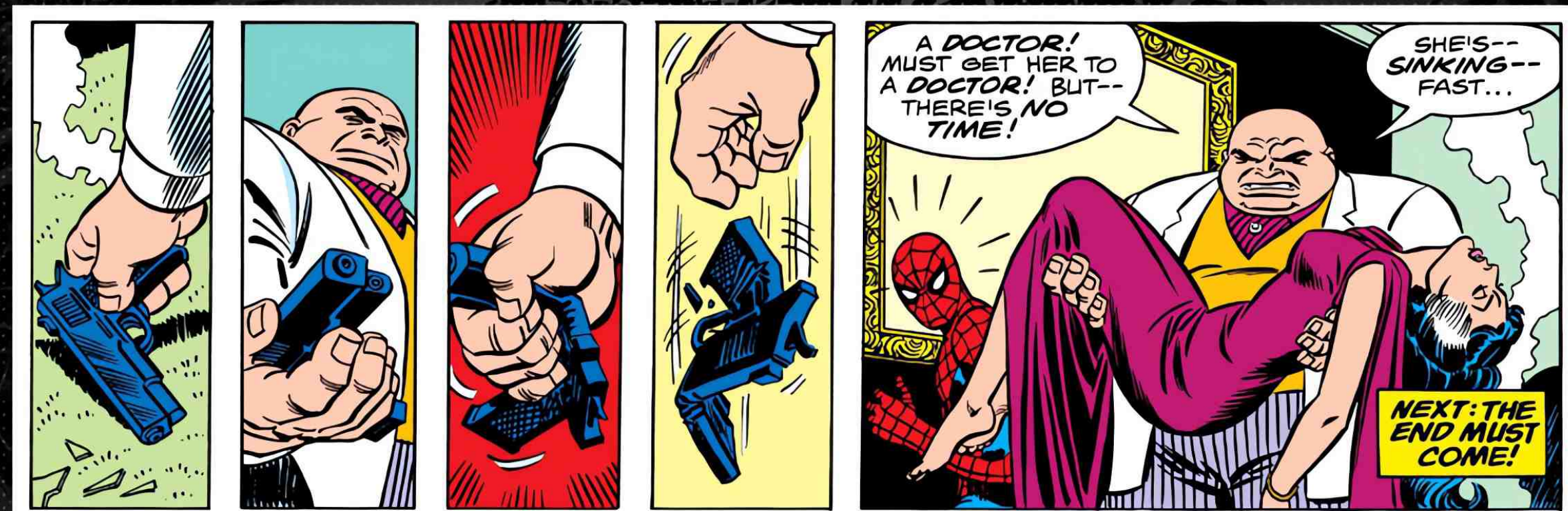
"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, 'laddy John Romita.'"

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

**KREE TASK FORCE,
NEAR KASPHIRUS IX...**



COLONEL
ON THE
BRIDGE!



PROGRESS
REPORT,
LT. DAR-RA.

SENSOR SWEEP OF THE
KASPHIRUS SYSTEM NOW
COMPLETED, COLONEL
YON-ROGG.

NO INDICATION OF
AGZ AND HIS SPOILER
FLEET HERE OR IN THE
ADJACENT SYSTEMS.

THE TASK FORCE
IS PROCEEDING TO
THE ATILARI BELT
TO COMMENCE A
GRID-BY-GRID
SURVEY OF--



THESE SYSTEMATIC
SWEEPS ARE SHOWING
US NOTHING,
DAR-RA.

WHERE ARE
THESE SPOILERS
HIDING?

WHEREVER
IT IS, COLONEL,
THEY ARE DOING
IT WELL.



MY EFFORTS TO PRESSURE THE
GALACTIC MERCHANT GUILD FOR
INFORMATION HAVE STALLED.

THEY ARE
UNWILLING TO GIVE UP
THEIR
PARTNERS
IN CRIME.

COLONEL!
INCOMING
ENERGY
PULSE!



INTENT?
ORIGIN?

UNABLE TO
DETERMINE EITHER,
COLONEL, BUT IT'S A
PSYCHO-ENERGETIC
WAVE OF IMMENSE
MAGNITUDE
AND--



FULL
TACTICAL
DAMAGE
REPORT!

M-MINOR
SENSOR IMPAIRMENT,
COLONEL. NO
CASUALTIES.

WHAT IN
SUPREMOR'S NAME
WAS THAT,
DAR-RA?



I...
DON'T KNOW,
COLONEL.

THEN
FIND OUT,
LIEUTENANT.

NOW.

Before he was a Guardian of the Galaxy ... before the Grootfall ... a young Groot sapling lived a life of tranquility on his serene homeworld. But when his home is threatened, he must accept his heroic destiny!

MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS...

GROOT

PREVIOUSLY...

When a verdant alien world, Planet X, is attacked by a mysterious group called the Spoilers, the young native Groot and his friends, Tweeg and Gleef, find themselves rescued by an unseasoned private in the Kree Starforce, Mar-Vell.

Mar-Vell attempts to return Groot and his friends home, but the plan goes disastrously wrong when it's revealed that Planet X is the Spoilers' base of operations! Mar-Vell teams up with a fellow victim of the Spoilers, a Centaurian hunter named Yondar, but is captured by the Spoiler leader, the mad *Flora colossus* Agz!

With time running out, Groot sends a distress signal into space, but will it be enough to save Mar-Vell?

writer
DAN

ABNETT

artist
DAMIAN

COUCEIRO

color artist
MATT

MILLA

letterer
VC's TRAVIS

LANHAM

cover artist
LEE

GARBETT

designer

CARLOS LAO

assistant editor

NOAH SHARMA

editor

DARREN SHAN

editor in chief

C.B. CEBULSKI

Groot created by STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY

THE DEADWOODS, PLANET K.

This is acting
Captain Mar-Vell of
the Kree Starforce.

If this recording is discovered,
know that I can confirm collusion
between the Merchant Guild
and Agz and his Spoilers.

I will not be
able to testify to
that in person...

...as I have refused to
provide critical Starforce
command codes to
Agz, and for that reason...

...the Spoiler
chieftain intends
to execute me.

I AM
AGZ!

GIVE
AGZ THE
OVERRIDE
CODES!

THERE
ARE ONLY
SO MANY WAYS
I CAN SAY
"NO," AGZ...



...AND ONLY
SO MANY WAYS I
CAN OFFER TO HELP
YOU FIND A CURE
FOR THE PARASITIC
INFESTATION THAT
HAS DAMAGED
YOUR MIND--

I AM
AGZ.

SILENCE,
KREE-MAN!

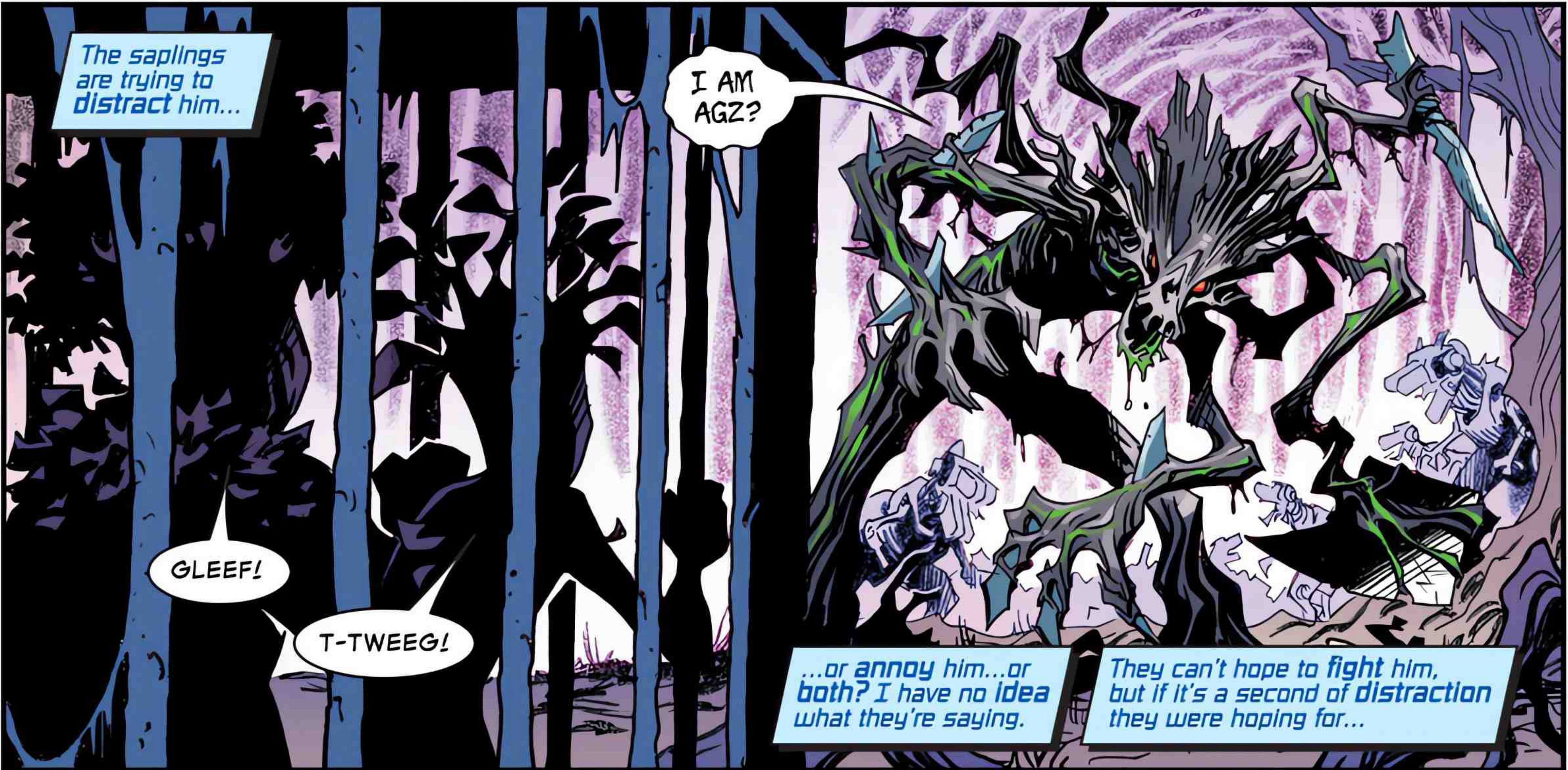


I AM
AGZ!



TWEEG!

GLEEF!



The saplings
are trying to
distract him...

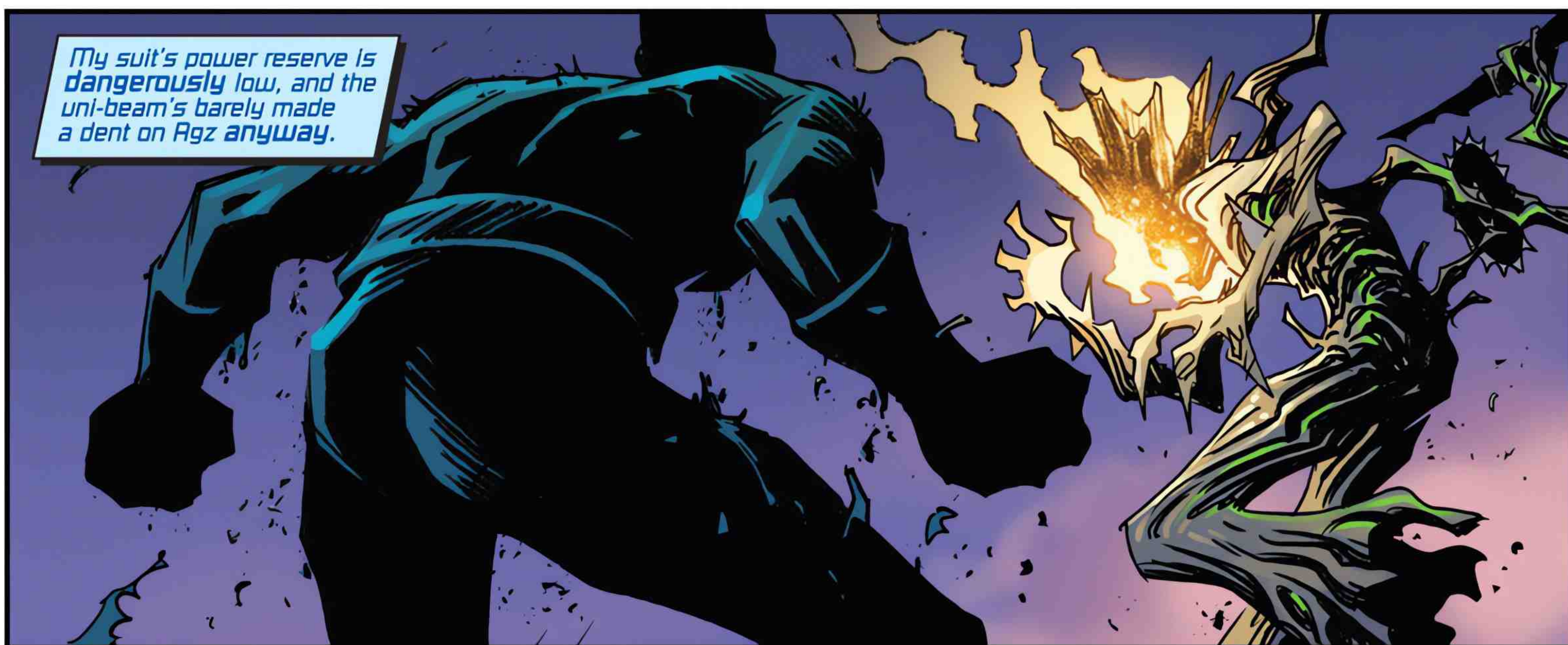
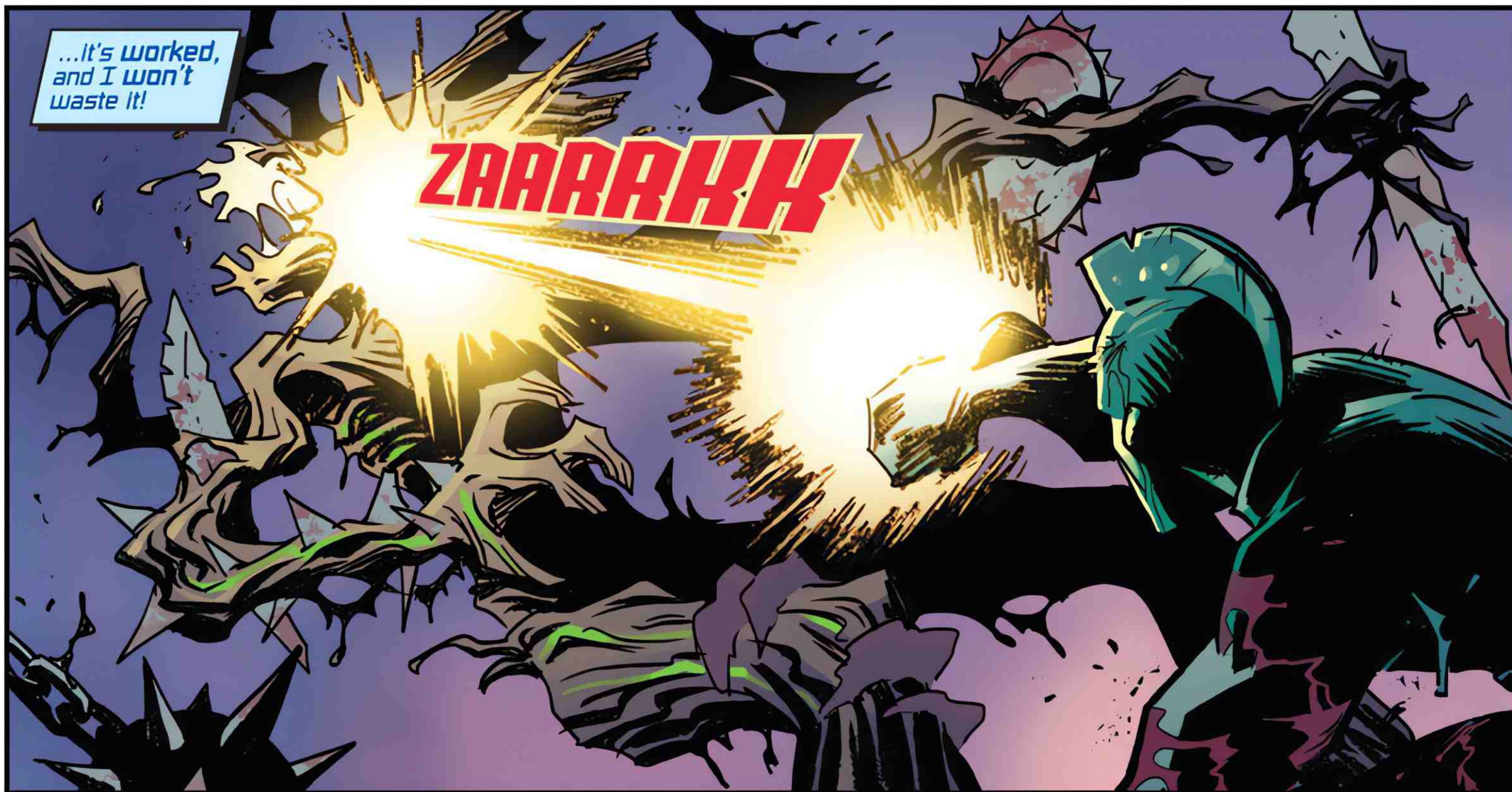
I AM
AGZ?

GLEEF!

T-TWEEG!

...or annoy him...or
both? I have no idea
what they're saying.

They can't hope to fight him,
but if it's a second of distraction
they were hoping for...



I target that.

My uni-beam
doesn't have enough
power left to crack
his steel-hard bark...

BZZZZNNNN

...but low-level uni-wave
emissions might cook the
parasites inside him.

I AM
AGZ!

BURNING...!
BURNING ME!

I AM
AGZ!

A comic book panel featuring two Groot characters. The Groot on the left has a head covered in red, autumn-like leaves and is smiling broadly, showing its teeth. A speech bubble above it contains the word "GLEEF!". The Groot on the right has a head with green leaves and is also smiling, with its mouth open. A speech bubble above it contains the word "TWEEG!". Both characters have brown, textured bark-like skin. The background is dark and indistinct.

GLEEF!

TWEEG!

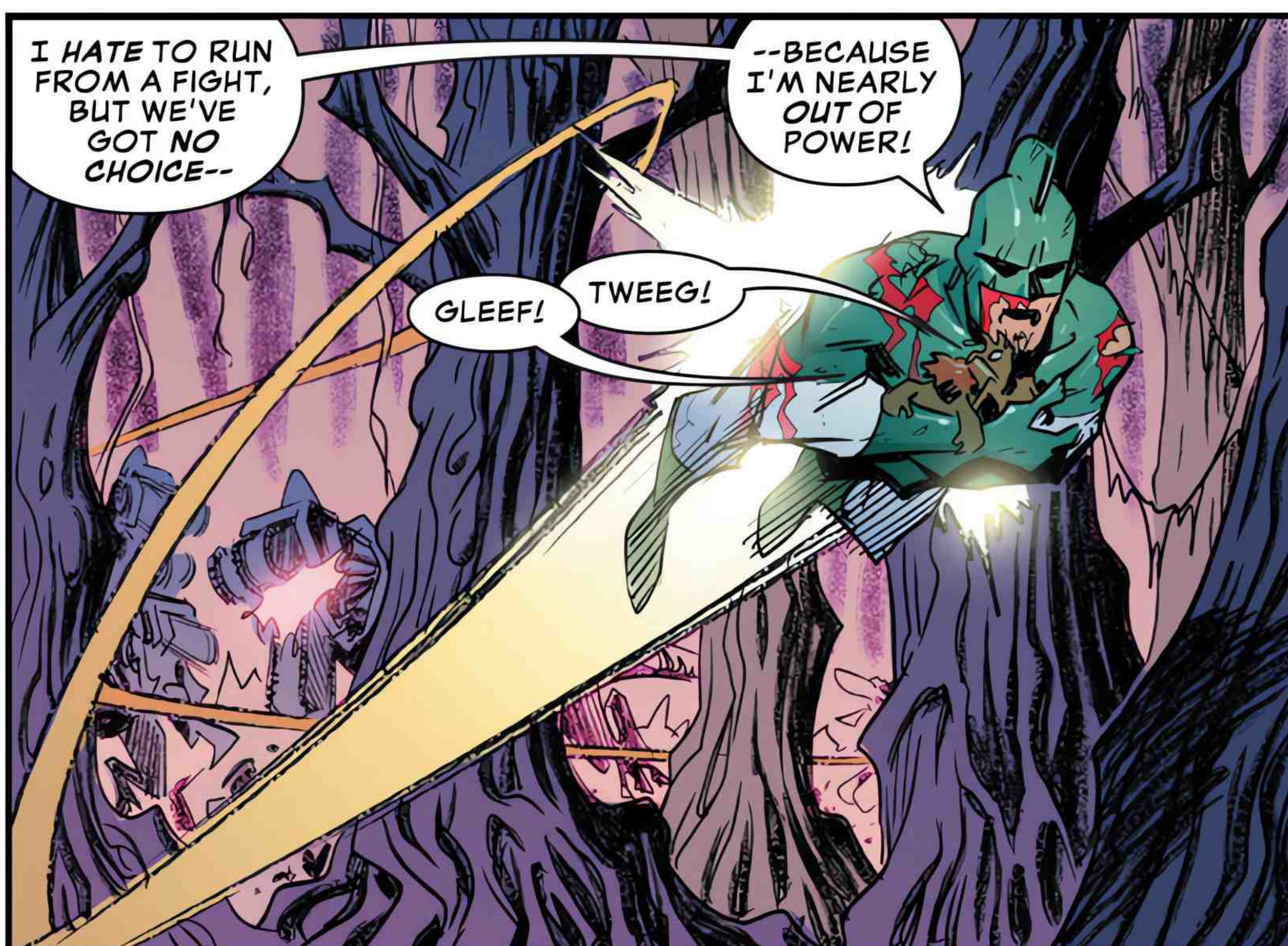
BZZZNNNNNN

YES, I
THINK IT IS
WORKING!

UNFORTUNATELY,
I DON'T THINK AGZ'S
CHAINSOURS ARE GOING
TO LET ME *FINISH*
THE JOB!

I AM AGZ!

KILL HIM!
KILL HIM
NOW!





DON'T JUST
STAND THERE,
MAR-VELL.





YONDAR!
I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
DEAD!

NOT
YET. BUT I
MIGHT AS
WELL BE.

CHAINSAURS
ARE CLOSING
FROM ALL
SIDES.



BUT
YOU CAME
BACK--?

GROOT
INSISTED.
HE WANTED
TO HELP HIS
FRIENDS.



HE
WOULDN'T
LEAVE GLEEF
AND TWEEG
BEHIND?

AND
YOU, YOU
IDIOT.



THANK
YOU, GROOT.

I AM
GROOT.



DON'T BE SO
SENTIMENTAL.

THIS
WAY, WE ALL
SIMPLY...





SHKOOOOOOM

UGHNNNNN!



SHKOOOMMM

NHH!
GET DOWN!
DOWN!

A
BOMBARDMENT--?



SHKOOOMMM

UNI-
BATTERY
SURFACE-
STRIKES!

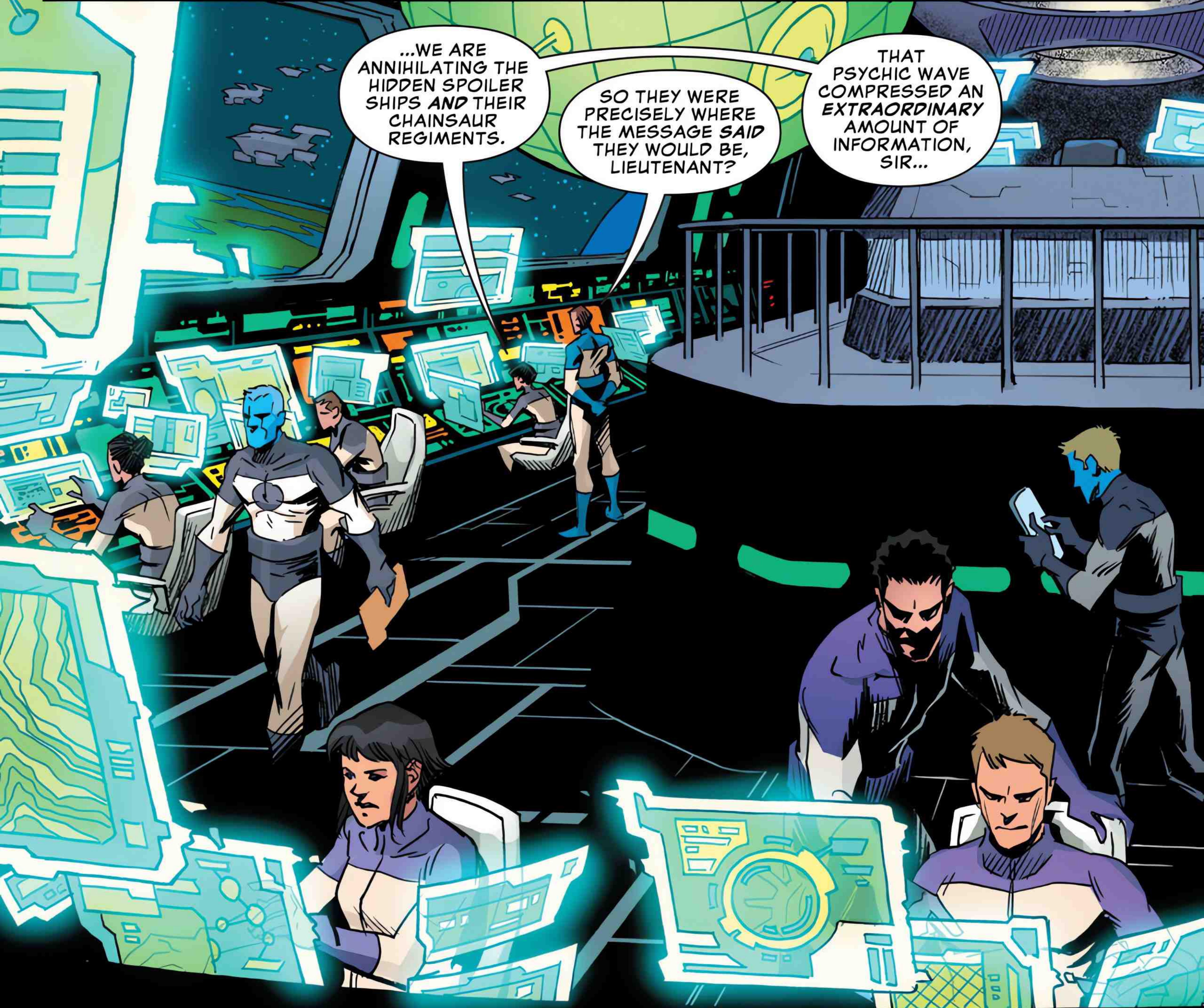
WHAT?

IN
HALA'S
NAME...



"...I THINK
IT'S THE KREE
TASK FORCE."

PRECISION
ORBITAL TARGETING
UNDERWAY,
COLONEL...

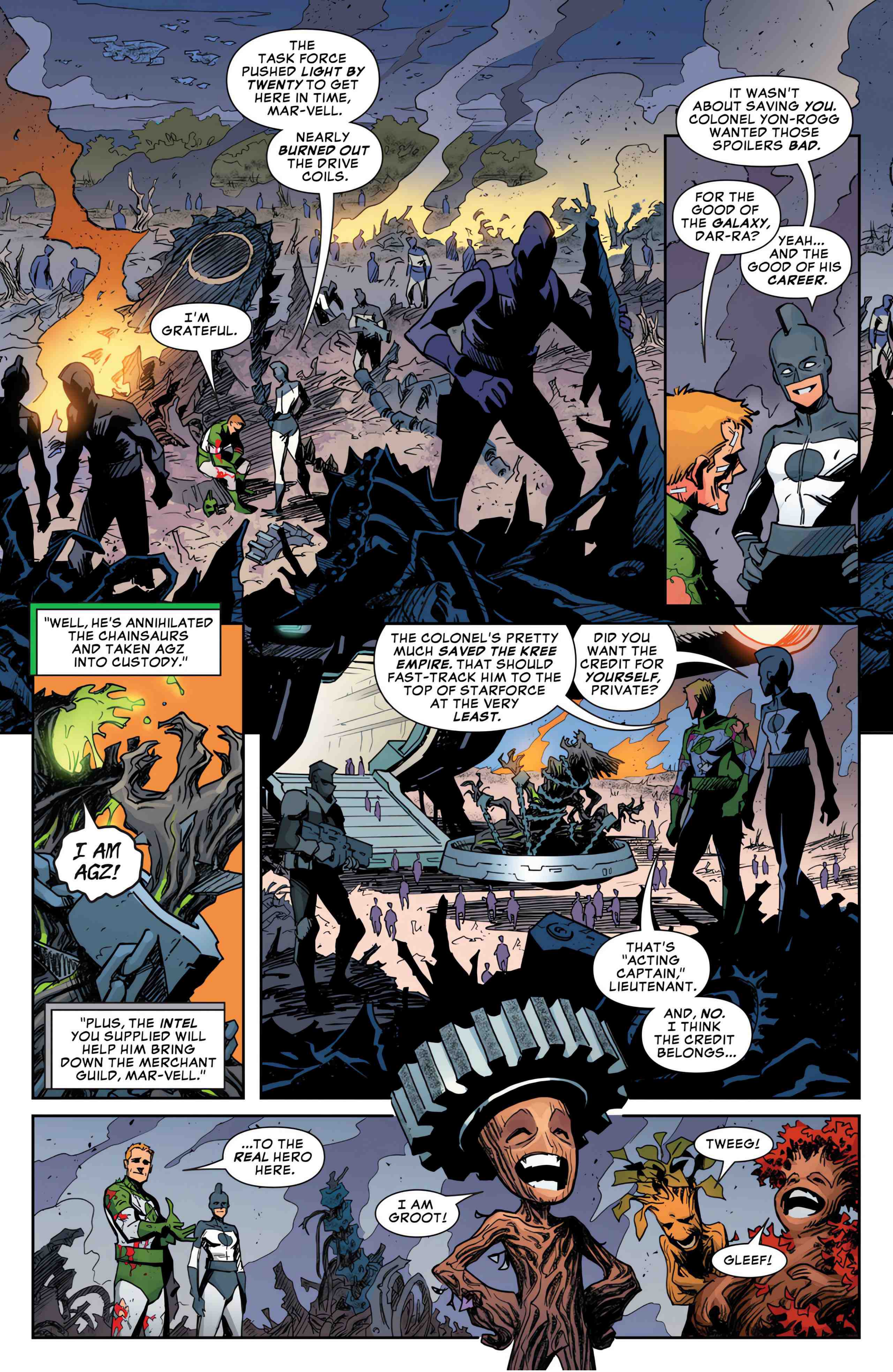


...WE ARE
ANNIHILATING THE
HIDDEN SPOILER
SHIPS AND THEIR
CHAINSOUR
REGIMENTS.

SO THEY WERE
PRECISELY WHERE
THE MESSAGE SAID
THEY WOULD BE,
LIEUTENANT?

THAT
PSYCHIC WAVE
COMPRESSED AN
EXTRAORDINARY
AMOUNT OF
INFORMATION,
SIR...





THE
TASK FORCE
PUSHED LIGHT BY
TWENTY TO GET
HERE IN TIME,
MAR-VELL.

NEARLY
BURNED OUT
THE DRIVE
COILS.

I'M
GRATEFUL.

IT WASN'T
ABOUT SAVING YOU.
COLONEL YON-ROGG
WANTED THOSE
SPOILERS BAD.

FOR THE
GOOD OF
THE GALAXY,
DAR-RA?

YEAH...
AND THE
GOOD OF HIS
CAREER.

"WELL, HE'S ANNIHILATED
THE CHAINSAURS
AND TAKEN AGZ
INTO CUSTODY."

THE COLONEL'S PRETTY
MUCH SAVED THE KREE
EMPIRE. THAT SHOULD
FAST-TRACK HIM TO THE
TOP OF STARFORCE
AT THE VERY
LEAST.

DID YOU
WANT THE
CREDIT FOR
YOURSELF,
PRIVATE?

I AM
AGZ!

"PLUS, THE INTEL
YOU SUPPLIED WILL
HELP HIM BRING
DOWN THE MERCHANT
GUILD, MAR-VELL."

THAT'S
"ACTING
CAPTAIN,"
LIEUTENANT.

AND, NO.
I THINK
THE CREDIT
BELONGS...

...TO THE
REAL HERO
HERE.

I AM
GROOT!

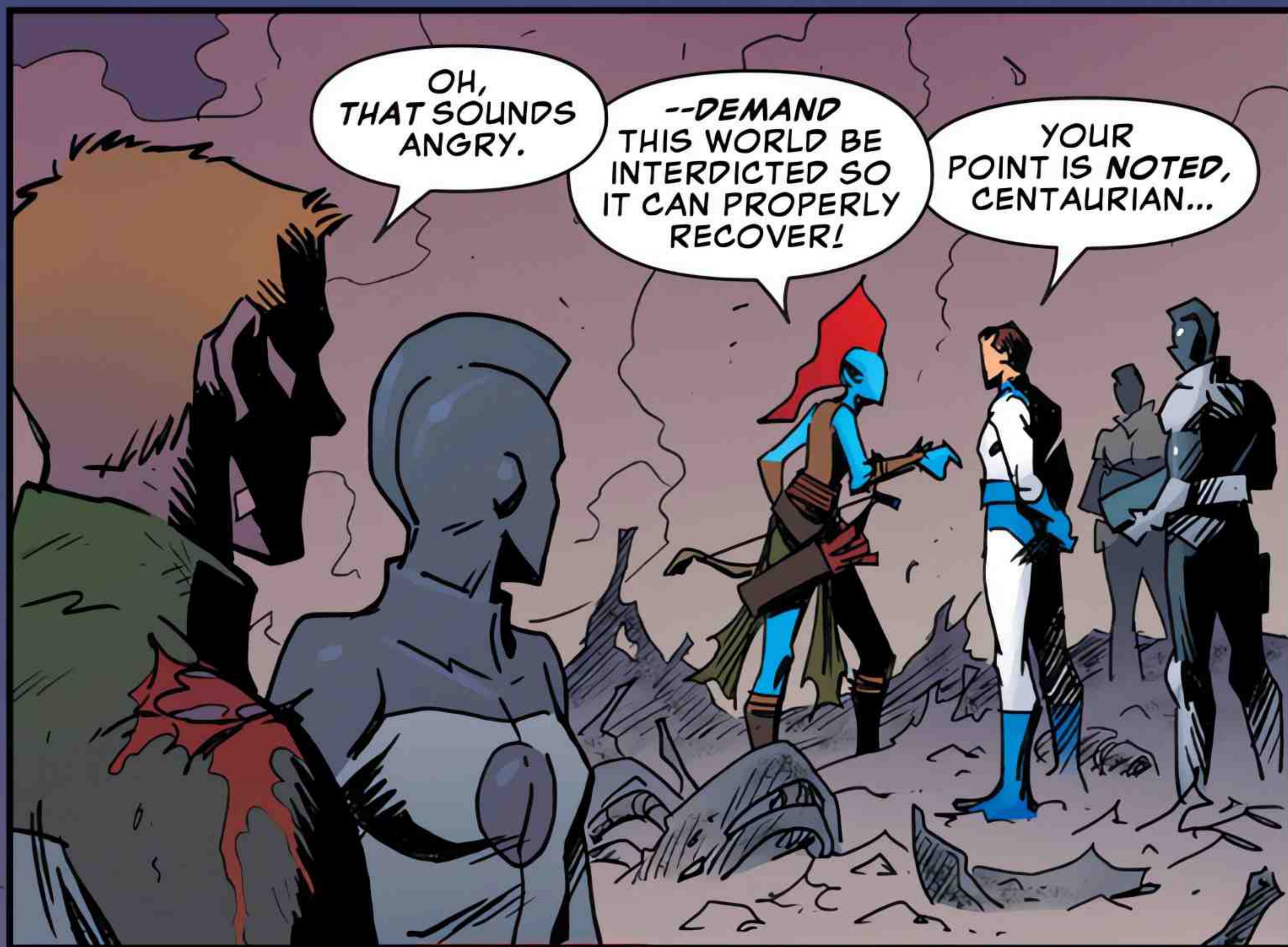
TWEEG!

GLEE!



I'M SORRY ABOUT SO-LAR.

ME TOO, DAR-RA. HE--



OH, THAT SOUNDS ANGRY.

--DEMAND THIS WORLD BE INTERDICTED SO IT CAN PROPERLY RECOVER!

YOUR POINT IS NOTED, CENTAURIAN...



...PLANET X IS NOW UNDER STARFORCE PROTECTION.

WE HAVE ALL BUT ERADICATED THE DEADWOODS PARASITE, AND OUR SCIENTISTS WILL ENSURE THAT IT DOES NOT RECUR--

GOOD. BUT THE PLANET NEEDS TO HEAL. TO NURTURE ITSELF. IT MUST NOT BE EXPLOITED.



I DON'T NEED SOME BARBARIAN FROM CENTAURI DICTATING POLICY TO ME!

TYPICAL KREE IMPERIALIST ARROGANCE--!

COLONEL?



PRIVATE MAR-VELL.

ACTING CAPTAIN, SIR...

...THOUGH I DOUBT FOR MUCH LONGER.

YONDAR OF CENTAURI IS RIGHT...

...PLANET X *MUST* BE LEFT ALONE, FOR NOW AT LEAST. INTERFERENCE FROM *OTHER* WORLDS WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO ITS DEVELOPMENT.

LIVING WOOD THAT CAN GROW BACK IS A POTENTIALLY PRICELESS RESOURCE. ENDLESSLY RENEWING CARBON.

THE EXPLOITATION OF WHICH WOULD MAKE US NO BETTER THAN THE SPOILERS, COLONEL.

WATCH YOUR TONE, MAR-VELL!

SIR, OUR INTERVENTION HERE WAS AN EMERGENCY ACTION AND DOES NOT CONSTITUTE FORMAL FIRST CONTACT ACCORDING TO STARFORCE CODE...

...WHICH MEANS WE HAVE A DUTY TO LEAVE THIS WORLD UNTOUCHED SO IT CAN EVOLVE ON ITS OWN TERMS.

ARE YOU ATTEMPTING TO CIRCUMVENT MY AUTHORITY THROUGH A KNOWLEDGE OF STARFORCE REGULATIONS, PRIVATE?

I VERY MUCH DOUBT I KNOW THE REGULATIONS BETTER THAN SOMEONE WHO HAS JUST SAVED THE KREE EMPIRE, COLONEL.

HMH.

THE AWAKENED TREES OF PLANET X WILL PROTECT THEIR WORLD WITH A PSYCHIC CANOPY OF SILENCE, SO THAT THEY CAN NEVER BE FOUND OR DISTURBED.

THIS, THEY HAVE PROMISED.

VERY WELL.

I WILL HAVE PLANET X LISTED AS A PRESERVE WORLD, AND DETAILS OF THIS LOCATION AND INCIDENT WILL BE EXPUNGED FROM THE GENERAL RECORD.



CARRY ON,
ACTING CAPTAIN
MAR-VELL.



THANK YOU,
YONDAR.

I DID NOTHING THAT
REQUIRES THANKS,
MAR-VELL. JUST
WHAT NEEDED TO
BE DONE.

LIKE
YOU.



YOU
ARE A GOOD
SOUL, CAPTAIN
MAR-VELL.

FOR A
KREE.



GROOT?
WE'LL BE
LEAVING
SOON.

I AM
GROOT!

GLEEF!

TWEEG!



YES, I
WILL MISS
YOU ALL.

I AM
GROOT!

I HOPE
SO TOO. AND
I'M SURE WE
WILL MEET
AGAIN...



"...ONE DAY,
WHEN YOU'RE
OLDER, OUT
AMONG THE
STARS."

PLANET X...

LIFE IS SIMPLE
HERE. SIMPLE
AND SLOW.



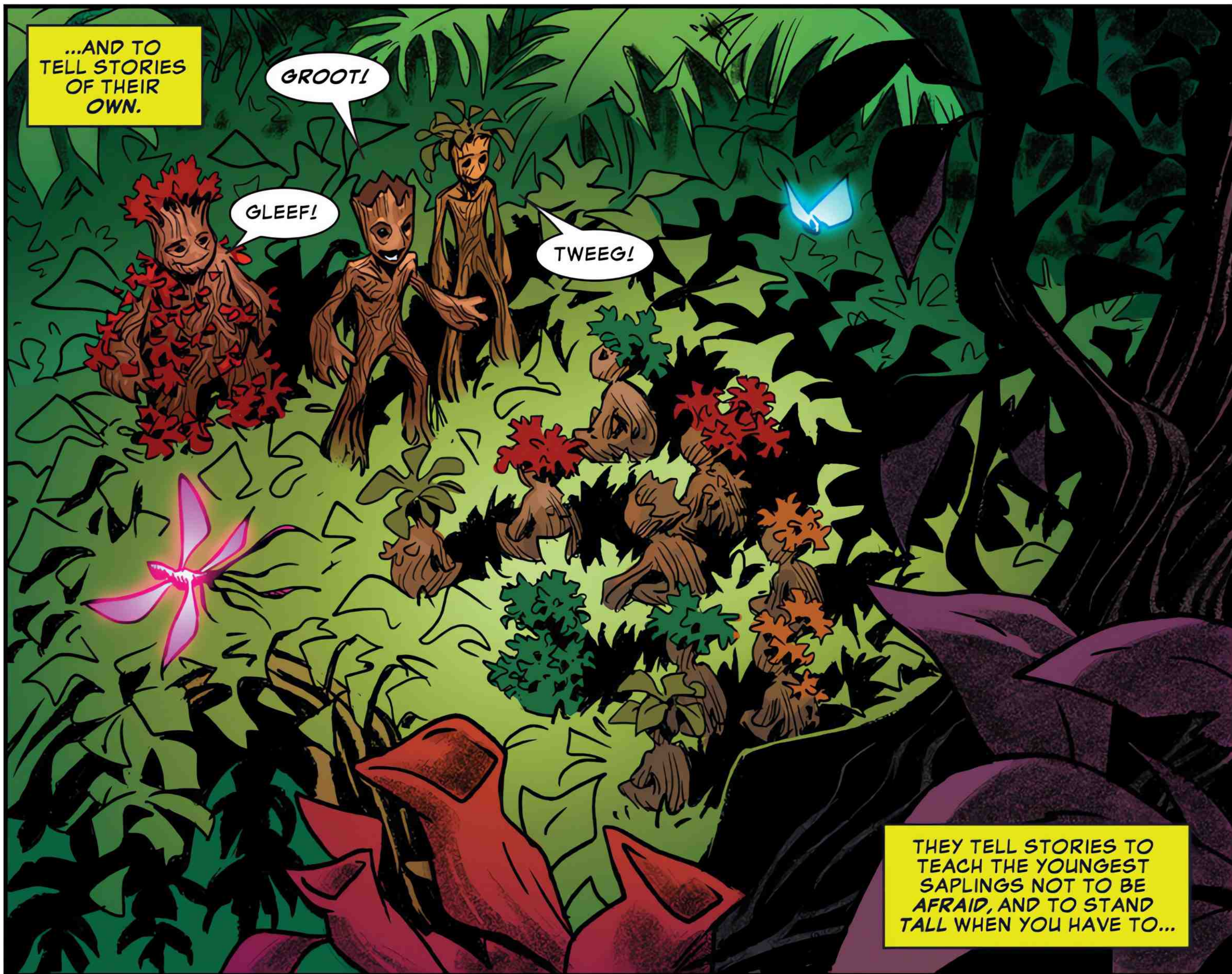
THE GREAT TREE-
FOLK DOMINATE
THE LANDMASSES
AND WATCH THE
SEASONS PASS.

SOME OF
THEM ARE
TWO OR THREE
MILES TALL.

THEY BARELY
STIR. IN THE
RUSTLE OF THEIR
LEAVES, THEY
MURMUR THEIR
MEMORIES.



GRANOPY IS THE
WISE OLD MATRIARCH.
BENEATH HER ANCIENT
LIMBS, THE SAPLINGS
GATHER TO HEAR HER
FAIRY STORIES...



Groot's story continues in...

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #6!



One year ago, the Guardians were more than a team, they were the galaxy's SUPER HEROES! Now the Guardians are outlaws, guns for hire roaming the frontier in hopes of stopping one of their own. How did the Guardians fall apart, and what changed Groot into the monster he is now? The untold story is finally revealed!

ON SALE 9.20.23